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Cc: Sharon Budney[BudneySL@cdm.com]; Nace, Charles[Nace.Charles@epa.gov]
From: Robert Law
Sent: Tue 3/12/2013 5:27:58 PM
Subject: Background tissue analysis plan, additional comments....
Background Tissue Analysis Plan Tables 020613.xlsx

Attached is the revised background analysis plan with the following revisions per EPA's 1/24/13 comments (below).

These are the change that have been made to the attached tables:

-5 WB carp samples have been added.

-6 WB American eel samples have been added (no additional WB samples can be made with the remaining fish).

-The difference between the minimum and maximum lengths within a composite have been added (see Table 2).

There are a total of 103 analytical samples now. It should be noted that gender-equal composite samples are not possible. We didn't identify gender for any fish other than those for which we did for health assessment and for banded killifish (you can't tell gender on most fish other than killifish unless you cut them open). For the single banded killifish composite proposed, there are 65 female and 2 males. We only caught 2 males out of the 108 banded killifish we caught- so it wouldn't be possible to have equal numbers of males and females in that sample.

Let me know if there are any questions.

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Hi Rob,

Here are some additional comments on the background tissue analysis plan. Please let us know if you would like to discuss any of these prior to addressing them.

Thanks,
Stephanie

1. Subsequent reports should include a discussion of total length and other statistical parameters for each sample, so that the background results can be properly compared to results from the lower 17-miles.
2. American Eel -- in addition to the fillet samples that are planned, and if available tissue mass is adequate to meet analytical tissue mass requirements, please analyze whole body samples instead of the fillet/carcass samples. This will be more comparable to what was done in the lower 17-miles.
3. Carp -- in addition to the fillet samples that are planned, and if available tissue mass is adequate to meet analytical tissue mass requirements, please analyze whole body samples instead of the fillet/carcass samples. This will be more comparable to what was done in the lower 17-miles.
4. Gender - to the extent possible, please analyze equal numbers of male and female specimens per sample, if available tissue mass is adequate to meet analytical tissue mass requirements and without violating the 75% length criteria.

In addition, the following is EPA's understanding of how we resolved the previous comments submitted on the plan:

- White perch: the CPG determined that there is insufficient mass to analyze whole body rather than carcass. No change to the draft proposal will be made.
- Brown bullhead: the 6 fillet samples will be retained.
- White sucker: the CPG will analyze this species as EPA suggested.
- Smallmouth bass: the CPG will analyze this species as EPA suggested.
- Largemouth bass: the data was reviewed and no additional largemouth bass samples will be analyzed.